



2012

ANNUAL

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

REPORT

# Prince Edward Island

Legislative Assembly

*Office of the Speaker*  
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown PE  
Canada C1A 7N8

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[www.assembly.pe.ca](http://www.assembly.pe.ca)

# Île-du-Prince-Édouard

Assemblée législative

*Bureau du présidente*  
CP 2000, Charlottetown PE  
Canada C1A 7N8

Fax/Télé.: 902 368 4473

December 12, 2013

To the Members of the  
Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island  
Charlottetown

It is my pleasure to submit the Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island and the P.E.I. Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for the period January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012.

I wish to acknowledge and thank all staff of the Legislative Assembly for the important work they do in supporting the exercise of parliamentary democracy on Prince Edward Island.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carolyn Bertram'.

Hon. Carolyn I. Bertram, MLA  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

# Prince Edward Island

Legislative Assembly

*Office of the Clerk*  
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown PE  
Canada C1A 7N8



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# Île-du-Prince-Édouard

Assemblée législative

*Bureau du présidente*  
CP 2000, Charlottetown PE  
Canada C1A 7N8

Fax/Télé.: 902 368 5175

December 13, 2013

Hon. Carolyn Bertram, MLA  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Province House, Charlottetown

Dear Madam Speaker,

I have the pleasure of presenting the 2012 Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island, which includes the 2012 report of the Prince Edward Island Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. This report highlights the various activities of the Office of the Legislative Assembly and the Office of the Clerk for the period January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles H. MacKay', written over a large, stylized flourish.

Charles H. MacKay  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and  
Secretary, P.E.I. Branch of the  
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

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# 1 ADMINISTRATION

# OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Office of the Legislative Assembly (OLA) provides the administrative and procedural support Members need to carry out their duties as elected officials. The OLA functions as an impartial authority responsible for the administration of the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Legislative Management, chaired by the Speaker and composed of Members of the House, governs the OLA and ensures an “arm’s length” relationship is maintained between the operation of the House and the operation of the Executive.

The OLA has access to a wide range of staff and resources that help support the activities of the House and provide services to the public: administrators, lawyers, security, researchers, computer technicians, and maintenance personnel.



*The doors closing after the Speaker's procession has entered the Chamber to begin a daily sitting.*



*Hon. H. Frank Lewis, Lieutenant Governor, delivering the Speech from the Throne for the Spring 2012 session.*

*Hon. Olive Crane, Leader of the Opposition, Hon Carolyn Bertram, Speaker, and Hon. Robert Ghiz, Premier, at the Speaker's Tea in November.*



*The Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly at a presentation by the Canadian Cancer Society*

# STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

**Mandate:** The Standing Committee on Legislative Management is responsible for the policies which govern the administration of the Legislative Assembly, covering everything from providing security and managing the facilities, to appointing staff, and reviewing the Assembly's estimates and expenditures. The Committee may also undertake additional duties if it is deemed important to the efficient management of the Legislative Assembly.

**Membership:** Speaker (Chair), Deputy Speaker, Government House Leader, Government Caucus Chair, Leader of the Official Opposition, Opposition Caucus Chair, Leader of a Third Party



*Hon. Carmel Tebbutt, MP for NSW in Australia, with Speaker Bertram in the Assembly chamber.*

*Hon. Bertram with François Ouimet, MNA for Marquette in Quebec.*



*Hon. Bertram with Japan's Ambassador Kaoru Ishikawa.*

## 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FREE EDUCATION ACT

Only one year removed from the 160th anniversary of responsible government, 2012 marked the 160th anniversary of the formal creation of a free public education system in the province. Granted Royal Assent on April 3rd, 1852, the *Free Education Act* established Prince Edward Island as the first of the former British North American colonies to enable widespread access to free public education.

The pre-1852 education system was plagued by underdevelopment and a shortage of funding. Although it was regularly reviewed by government, the quality of the scholastic experience was poor. In fact, prior to the 1852 legislation, "...only two-thirds of the school houses in Queen's County, the most populous and prosperous of the three Island counties, had ever been in operation at the same time."<sup>1</sup> At the heart of matter rested financial concerns. Poor wages and sporadic pay often accompanied teaching positions, frequently deterring the finest instructors from Island classrooms. The result was that by 1851, the public had grown disenchanted with the status of education in the colony and pressed government to implement positive reforms.

George Coles, the Island's first Premier, spearheaded the movement for free public education. As a boy Coles had received little education but quickly rose to prominence as an affluent entrepreneur and brewer prior to entering the political arena.<sup>2</sup> Coles' activism

was not only motivated by his drive to revitalize the system of education, as the public requested, but also by his ambition to tackle the land tenure question. Coles sought to improve the arguably exploitative relationship that existed between land owners and tenants, whereby illiterate tenants were typically forced into binding contractual leasing agreements the details of which they could not possibly understand.

Following the appointment of the Special Committee on Free Education in the third session of the eighteenth General Assembly in 1851, the public rallied behind the cause and submitted an astonishing 53 petitions in support in the fourth session, a year later.

While free public education was supported by the overwhelming majority of the Island population, a small minority raised concerns over the program, particularly Tory leader Edward Palmer, James Yeo Sr. and William Douse. In later January and February 1852, the House of Assembly received three petitions which did not support further taxation to fund a new school system.

Nevertheless, on March 18, 1852, the *Free Education Act* was passed in the House of Assembly by a tally of 16 in favor and 3 against. The bill was quickly ratified by Prince Edward Island's upper house, the Legislative Council, on its third reading on April 1, 1852, and was given Royal Assent by the Lieutenant Governor two days later.

For the impoverished working classes, the changes meant that their children would no longer be scholastically disadvantaged and increased the possibility for upward social mobility. Financially, the flaws of the old system had been addressed. With wages now the responsibility of the Colonial Treasury, teachers had job security and local taxes were used to cover the costs of construction and maintenance of Island school houses. The result was that within two years, Island school enrollment doubled.<sup>3</sup>

The *Free Education Act* was a landmark piece of legislation and distinguished Prince Edward Island as the first of the former British North American colonies and Canadian provinces to facilitate an accessible and publicly funded school system. After 160 years it is proper that the legacy of George Coles and the *Free Education Act* be remembered, for the statute pioneered what is today a country-wide tradition of quality public education.

To commemorate the anniversary, the Legislative Assembly passed the pro forma bill *An Act To Acknowledge 2012 as the 160th Anniversary of Free Education in Prince Edward Island* on April 4th, 2012. A section on the anniversary was added to the Assembly website, and legislative interpreters included information on the anniversary in the tours they provided to summertime visitors to Province House.

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1 Ian Ross Robertson. "Reform, Literacy and the Lease: The Prince Edward Island Free Education Act of 1852." *Acadiensis*. 20.1 (Autumn 1990) 56.

2 "George Coles: Premiers Gallery." Government of Prince Edward Island. Web. (17 Jan, 2011)

3 Ian Ross Robertson. "Reform, Literacy and the Lease: The Prince Edward Island Free Education Act of 1852." *Acadiensis*. 20.1 (Autumn 1990) 56.

## Role

As the chief permanent officer of the Legislative Assembly, the Clerk aids the Speaker in providing administrative support to members, and advises the Speaker and members on parliamentary procedure, helping to ensure the proper execution of House rules and practices.

Any documents or reports presented by members during the sitting are given to the Clerk for safekeeping, and are said to have been 'tabled.' The Clerk maintains the official record of the business of the House, and is custodian of the House's parliamentary papers. Both the Clerk and the Clerk Assistant are present at each sitting of the House, seated at a table in front of the Speaker.

## Rotary Youth Parliament

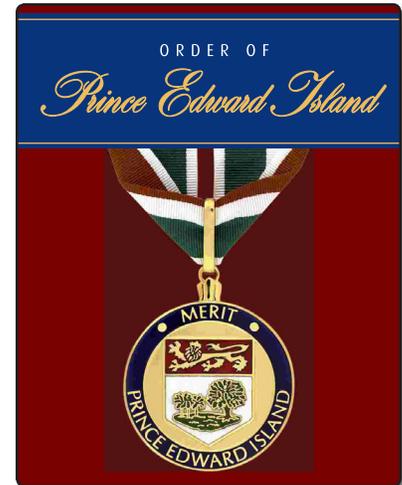
The Rotary Youth Parliament took place at Province House on February 24-25, 2012. Now in its twenty-fourth year, the long-running project is a partnership between the Speaker's and Clerk's offices, the Department of Education, District School Boards, volunteer teacher advisors and Rotary Clubs across Prince Edward Island.



## **The Order of Prince Edward Island**

The 2012 recipients of the Order of Prince Edward Island were announced in June 2012 by the Chancellor of the Order, His Honour the Honourable H. Frank Lewis, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island; and Mr. Maitland MacIsaac, Chair of the Order of Prince Edward Island Advisory Council. The three Islanders selected to receive the honour were Emily Bryant, Sibyl Cutcliffe, and Dr. Albert “Bud” Ings. These three individuals were selected from a total of 66 Islanders nominated to receive the award in 2012.

The honour was first conferred in 1996 with six individuals invested at that time; since then there have been three Islanders Invested each year. The honour is awarded as a means of recognizing those Islanders who have shown individual excellence or outstanding leadership in their community and in their chosen occupation or profession. It is the highest honour that can be accorded to a citizen of the Province. It is awarded annually following a public nomination process with not more than three recipients being selected by an independent nine-person Advisory Council each year. Insignia of the Order were presented by the Lieutenant Governor at a special investiture ceremony in October at Government House, Charlottetown. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Charles MacKay, is Secretary to the Advisory Council.



## **Co-op Education Program with the University of Prince Edward Island**

The Legislative Assembly has an established working relationship with the University of Prince Edward Island through a Co-op Educational Program for third and fourth year students. University students, majoring in History and/or Political Science, are assigned to the Legislative Assembly during the fall and winter semesters, and exposed to the operations of the Office of the Legislative Assembly, Office of the Speaker, Government and Opposition Members’ Office, Hansard Office, Legislative Library and Committees Branch. The Co-op Program is designed to promote an understanding of the workings of the Legislative Assembly at the University, to support students by providing work in their chosen field of study and to increase the Assembly’s profile at UPEI. This initiative is part of an ongoing effort to provide information to the public about our provincial parliament and about the specific work that is conducted at the House. Since its inception in 2008, a total of 8 students have participated in the well-received program.

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# 2 SESSIONAL ACTIVITY

# ASSEMBLY STATISTICS

	Spring 2012 - 2/64	Fall 2012 - 3/64	Totals
Number of sitting days	31	16	<b>47</b>
Government bills brought	43	26	<b>69</b>
Government bills passed	34	25	<b>59</b>
Private member's bills brought	0	0	<b>0</b>
Private member's bills passed	0	0	<b>0</b>
Private bills brought	3	0	<b>3</b>
Private bills passed	3	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Oral question period</b>			
Average number of questions a day	33	28	<b>1408</b>
Average length of questions	28 seconds	43 seconds	
Average length of answers	44 seconds	1 min., 33 sec.	
Longest question asked	2 min., 3 sec.	1 min., 47 sec.	
Longest answer given	2 min., 53 sec.	3 min., 9 sec.	
Shortest question asked	1 second	3 seconds	
Shortest answer given	1 second	1 second	
<b>Ministerial statements</b>			
Average number of statements a day	3	5	<b>167</b>
Average length of statements	1 min., 57 sec.	1 min., 33 sec.	
Longest statement	3 min., 31 sec.	3 min., 46 sec.	
Shortest statement	45 seconds	1 min., 20 sec.	
<b>Motions</b>			
Government	17	8	<b>88</b>
Other than Government	30	30	<b>60</b>
Introduced jointly	1	2	<b>3</b>
Passed	12	9	<b>21</b>
<b>Number of written questions submitted</b>			
Number of written questions submitted	0	13	<b>13</b>
<b>Number of written answers submitted</b>			
Number of written answers submitted	0	0	<b>0</b>

# ORDINARY EXPENSES WITH ESTIMATES

*The information below has been taken from the Public Accounts of the Province of Prince Edward Island, Volume II, for the year begun April 1, 2011, and ended March 31, 2012. The Public Accounts provide the most current information comparing actual expenditures (Expenses column) to the budgeted estimates (Estimates column).*

	EXPENSES \$	ESTIMATES \$
<b>LEGISLATIVE SERVICES</b>		
Administration	122,787	122,000
Equipment	48,551	28,500
Materials, Supplies & Services	100,264	99,400
Professional & Contract Services	21,863	102,000
Salaries	1,628,935	1,563,800
Travel & Training	29,250	36,100
Grants		
Opposition Members Office	108,300	103,300
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association	14,459	16,000
Government Members Office	120,400	115,400
	<u>2,194,809</u>	<u>2,186,500</u>
<b>Commonwealth Parliamentary Services</b>		
Administration	187,594	255,300
	<u>187,594</u>	<u>255,300</u>
<b>Total Legislative Services</b>	<u><b>2,382,403</b></u>	<u><b>2,441,800</b></u>
<b>MEMBERS</b>		
<b>Members</b>		
Salaries	1,993,500	2,136,100
Travel & Training	87,955	126,000
<b>Total Members</b>	<u><b>2,081,455</b></u>	<u><b>2,262,100</b></u>
<b>OFFICE OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER</b>		
<b>Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner</b>		
Salaries	45,391	41,100
Travel & Training	--	3,200
<b>Total Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner</b>	<u><b>45,391</b></u>	<u><b>44,300</b></u>

	EXPENSES \$	ESTIMATES \$
OFFICE OF THE INFORMATION AND PRIVACY		
COMMISSIONER		
<b>Office of the Conflict of the Information and Privacy</b>		
<b>Commissioner</b>		
Administration	2,963	4,900
Materials, Supplies & Services	654	1,600
Professional & Contract Services	73,715	1,000
Salaries	113,086	96,900
Travel & Training	5,223	5,000
<b>Total Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner</b>	<b><u>195,641</u></b>	<b><u>109,400</u></b>
ELECTIONS P.E.I.		
<b>Elections</b>		
Administration	3,590	5,000
Equipment	--	1,300
Materials, Supplies & Services	889	2,500
Professional & Contract Services	439	14,000
Salaries	264,442	269,900
Travel & Training	--	4,000
	<u>269,360</u>	<u>296,700</u>
<b>Election Expenses</b>		
Administration	8,952	1,157,200
Equipment	314	--
Materials, Supplies & Services	57,190	--
Professional & Contract Services	650,832	--
Salaries	180,572	--
Travel & Training	3,337	--
	<u>901,197</u>	<u>1,157,200</u>
<b>Total Elections P.E.I</b>	<b><u>1,170,557</u></b>	<b><u>1,453,900</u></b>
<b>TOTAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY</b>	<b><u>5,875,447</u></b>	<b><u>6,311,500</u></b>

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# 3 HOUSE OFFICES & ASSOCIATIONS

# AUDIO VISUAL SERVICES

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Audio Visual Services had another busy year with the proceedings from the Legislature and meetings at the Coles Building.

The section continued to successfully produce the television broadcast and webcast of the spring and fall sittings of the Legislative Assembly from Province House.

Audio Visual technicians were responsible for producing and switching the broadcast and provided valuable assistance in the audio and graphics areas.

The TV broadcast was shown on EastLink TV and available to all cable viewers across PEI.

The Legislative broadcast was also seen in house by all members of the media and Legislative staff. All daily and evening sittings of the Legislature were also archived on DVD.

The live video stream was shown both internally and externally on the Legislative Assembly website.

Audio Visual Services provided audio and video feeds to ITSS, and was also responsible for archiving all streamed sessions of the proceedings on the Legislative Assembly web page.

The section continued to provide all technical support for Committee Meetings held at the Coles Building and across PEI.

The technicians were in charge of operating the microphones, providing media with press feeds, and assisting presenters with audio/video and power point presentations to the committees.

Audio Visual Services had another productive year working with management and staff of the Legislative Assembly.

The section remains committed to providing excellent audio visual support to the PEI Legislature and Coles Building.

# COMMITTEES

The standing committees of the Legislative Assembly maintained a busy and productive schedule for 2012, holding a total of 60 meetings and submitting 23 reports.

## Committee Reports

<i>Committee (Author)</i>	<i>Title(s)</i>	<i>Date(s)</i>
Agriculture, Environment, Energy & Forestry	-Committee Activities -Committee Activities & Request to Meet Intersessionally -Committee Activities	April 17, 2012 May 9, 2012 November 21, 2012
Committee on Committees	-Composition of the Standing Committees -Composition of the Standing Committees	April 11, 2012 November 23, 2012
Community & Intergovernmental Affairs	-Committee Activities & Request to Meet Intersessionally -Committee Activities	May 10, 2012 November 20, 2012
Education & Innovation	-Committee Activities & Request to Meet Intersessionally -Committee Activities	May 16, 2012 November 21, 2012
Fisheries, Transportation & Rural Development	-Committee Activities -Committee Activities & Request to Meet Intersessionally -Committee Activities -Changes to EI	April 17, 2012 May 25, 2012 November 28, 2012 November 28, 2012
Health, Social Development & Seniors	-Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission -Committee Activities -Committee Activities & Request to Meet Intersessionally -Committee Activities	April 17, 2012 April 17, 2012 May 15, 2012 November 16, 2012
Privileges, Rules and Private Bills	-Private Bill 200 and Private Bill 201 and Proposed Changes to the Rules of the Legislative Assembly -Private Bill 202 and Annotated Rules of the Legislative Assembly -Proposed Change to the Rules of the Legislative Assembly	April 26, 2012 May 23, 2012 December 7, 2012
Public Accounts	-Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly, 2011, and Adoption of Best Practices -Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly, 2012, and Request to Meet Intersessionally -Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly, 2012	April 17, 2012 May 25, 2012 November 23, 2012
TOTAL NO. OF REPORTS		23

## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS FOR THE FIRST, SECOND, & THIRD SESSIONS OF THE SIXTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<i>Committee name</i>	<i>AEEF</i>	<i>CC</i>	<i>CIA</i>	<i>EI</i>	<i>FTRD</i>	<i>HSDS</i>	<i>PRPB</i>	<i>PA</i>
<i>Member name</i>								
James Aylward			●	●		●		
Hon. Carolyn Bertram								
Paula Biggar	<i>Chair</i>	●	●		●			●
Richard Brown			●			●		
Kathleen Casey	●			●			<i>Chair</i>	
Hon. Olive Crane		●	●					●
Hon. Doug Currie								
Hon. Valerie Docherty								
Bush Dumville	●		<i>Chair</i>	●		<i>Chair</i>		
Sonny Gallant		<i>Chair</i>	●		<i>Chair</i>	●		●
Hon. Robert Ghiz								
Gerard Greenan			●	<i>Chair</i>		●		●*
Hon. Robert Henderson								
Colin LaVie	●				●		●	
Hon. Ron MacKinley							●	
Charles McGeoghegan				●	●			●*
Hon. Alan Mclsaac							●	
Robert Mitchell				●		●		●**
Pat Murphy	●		●	●	●			●**
Steven Myers		●			●		●	<i>Chair</i>
Hal Perry	●			●		●		
Hon. Allen Roach								
Hon. Wes Sheridan		●						
Hon. Janice Sherry							●	
Hon. Robert Vessey							●	
Buck Watts	●				●		●	●
Hon. George Webster								

\*until June 26, 2012

\*\* as of June 26, 2012

### KEY TO COMMITTEES

AEEF - Agriculture, Environment, Energy and Forestry

CC - Committee on Committees

CIA - Community and Intergovernmental Affairs

EI - Education and Innovation

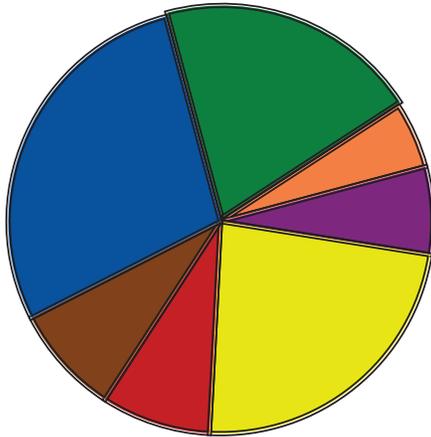
FTRD - Fisheries, Transportation and Rural Development

HSDS - Health, Social Development and Seniors

PRPB - Privileges, Rules and Private Bills

PA - Public Accounts

**Committee Activity**



COMMITTEE NAME	NO. OF MTGS.
Agriculture, Environment, Energy & Forestry . . . . .	12
Health, Social Development & Seniors . . . . .	5
Education & Innovation . . . . .	4
Public Accounts . . . . .	17
Fisheries, Transportation & Rural Development . . . . .	14
Community & Intergovernmental Affairs . . . . .	3
Privileges, Rules & Private Bills . . . . .	5

**Committee Highlights**

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts and the Standing Committee on Fisheries, Transportation and Rural Development held 17 and 14 meetings, respectively, over the course of 2012.

**Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts adopted a number of best practices in order to better fulfill its mandate by:

- building capacity and expertise through professional development for committee members, including participation in workshops with staff of the Office of the Comptroller, Treasury Board and the Auditor General with the goal of learning more about the preparation of the estimates of revenue and expenditure, and matters of general financial administration;
- meeting with the Auditor General to be briefed on how the Office of the Auditor General functions, what resources are available to it, how risk is assessed, how audits are performed, and how the public accounts are audited;
- placing additional emphasis on reviewing Volume I and Volume II of the Public Accounts of the Province of Prince Edward Island (the “blue books”) with the Auditor General and the Comptroller;
- notifying Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and heads of agencies that the committee expects all expenditures of funds to follow the principles of efficiency, effectiveness and prudence, and that all Treasury Board guidelines and regulations are to be followed;
- requiring each department referenced in the annual Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly file an action plan, within a specified time frame, with the committee, detailing how and when the department will comply with the recommendations

made by the Auditor General;

- promoting the work of the committee by means of public meetings, press releases, and information—including transcripts of public meetings and reports—posted to the web site of the Legislative Assembly, with the goal of providing the public with full access to the findings and recommendations of the committee;
- continuing its practice of regularly reporting committee activities, observations, opinions and recommendations to the Legislative Assembly; and
- maintaining a focus on operational, administrative and financial matters.

Throughout 2012, much progress was achieved in the implementation of these best practices, and the committee recommended that completion of outstanding items be undertaken in 2013.

At the time of presenting its report in late November, the committee extended its thanks to Colin Younker, CA, who retired from the position of Auditor General. Mr. Younker had been of great assistance to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts over the term of his appointment, and it was with appreciation and gratitude that the committee wished him well in this new phase of his life.

#### Standing Committee on Fisheries, Transportation and Rural Development

In light of changes to the federal Employment Insurance Act included in House of Commons Bill C-38 (March 29, 2012) and announced by Hon. Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, and in view of the fact that access to Employment Insurance (EI) is important to Island workers in many industries, the Standing Committee on Fisheries, Transportation and Rural Development decided on July 10, 2012, to hold a series of public hearings in Island communities in order to receive input on how the changes will affect Islanders.

Individuals and organizations had many concerns in regard to the EI reforms. Several common themes were evident: the EI reforms cause uncertainty and confusion among employees and employers; the new categorization of claimants is problematic; the reforms penalize seasonal workers and industries; the new Working While On Claim pilot project represents a disincentive for claimants to accept part-time work; the EI reforms will have negative social impacts; claimants will be disadvantaged by the elimination of the local EI assistance and appeals structure; greater awareness and understanding of the Temporary Foreign Worker program is needed; and government is misusing the EI program. As a result of its hearings on this issue, the committee made a number of recommendations for the consideration of the Legislative Assembly, urging all provincial representatives of Islanders to defend the province's seasonal industries, workers and employers in dealings with the federal government in order to ensure that a good living is possible on PEI, that insurance safeguards for the unemployed are maintained, and that Island communities remain sustainable.

Your committee thanked the many individuals and organizations who attended its public hearings on this issue, particularly those who came forward to share their concerns and ideas. Employment Insurance is vital to workers, families and industries, and the committee was encouraged by the passion with which Islanders defend it.

## **Staff**

In her capacity of President of the Canadian Association of Clerks at the Table, Marian Johnston attended the annual Australia and New Zealand Association of Clerks-at-the-Table (ANZACATT) Professional Development Seminar hosted by the Parliament of Victoria in Melbourne from January 22-26, 2012. The conference consists of a combination of plenary and workshop sessions focused on a particular theme; which for this year was “Agents for change and custodians of parliamentary traditions; the role of the parliamentary officer past, present and future.” The seminar was an opportunity to consider the evolution and future of parliamentary officers, who are relied upon to ensure that parliamentary traditions are understood and upheld within the context of making the parliament work in the present day.



*Parliament of Victoria, in Melbourne, Australia.*

A number of topics related to the theme were explored, including:

- contemporary and future challenges for the Parliament
- evolution of the role of the Clerk and parliamentary officer
- politics, the media, community engagement and parliamentary officers
- ensuring support services for members and committees and resources for parliaments: the parliamentary officer as advocate for the institution; and
- modernizing parliamentary procedure and administration for the twenty-first century: a unicameral and bicameral perspective.

Marian Johnston was a delegate to the 2012 Professional Development Seminar of the Association of Clerks at the Table in Canada held in Victoria, British Columbia from August 7-11, 2012. The annual seminar provides an opportunity for table officers from Canadian and other jurisdictions to explore topics of mutual interest.

# HANSARD

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The role of Hansard has expanded over the years, from simply transcribing the debates of the Legislative Assembly and supplying a modest index in the bound books to covering debates and committee meetings, with indexes for each, and to working, in cooperation with other Assembly offices, on a variety of tasks.

From January through March 2012 Hansard PEI continued with a project carried over from 2011: digitizing the Journal of the Legislative Assembly for online reference. The project had a committee overseeing the work, and the committee members included: Hansard (Jeff Bursey), Government Services Library (Nichola Cleaveland), Legislative Library (Laura Morrell), PARO (Jill MacMicken-Wilson), and Robertson Library of the University of Prince Edward Island (Simon Lloyd and Donald Moses). It oversaw the operations of two Hansard staff, Cheryl Connell and Marcel Vander Wier, as they used specialized equipment, such as a robotic scanner, to convert printed documents into digital form, and then introduce metadata to enable classifying and searching.

By June all the Journals from 2002-2003 back to 1894 had been scanned and ingested, and the final files readied for processing by Robertson Library staff. This amount of work could not have been done, nor done so well, without the efforts of Ms. Connell and Mr. Vander Wier who, in March and June, respectively, left Hansard PEI for work in other provinces. Hansard PEI thanks them for their service and commitment.

The website containing the mass of information contained in the Journals is called Prince Edward Island Legislative Documents Online ([www.peildo.ca](http://www.peildo.ca)).

Another long-term project carried over from 2011 is updating the biographical entries for the sequel to *Minding the House*. What Hansard and the Association of Former Members of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island call *Minding the House: 1993-2011, Volume II* will contain both updated and completely new biographies of MLAs whose careers fall within that span of years. Hansard is writing and will edit the contents of the book, which is due to come out in the fall of 2014 as part of the commemorations of the 150th Anniversary of the 1864 Charlottetown Conference. Part of the work on the entries had been done by Marcel Vander Wier; in October 2012 these duties were taken over by Laura Mercer.

In other tasks, Hansard continued with its usual work: transcribing, editing and publishing, in print and online, the daily debates of April and May, and again of November and December; and editing committee transcripts from January through the end of March, and again from August to November. The volume of committee meetings resulted in the publication of volume 8 (6 January 2012—30 March 2012) and volume 9 (25 April 2012—6 November 2012) of *Index to Committees*.

The following committees were covered in these indices:

- Agriculture, Environment, Energy and Forestry
- Community and Intergovernmental Affairs

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- Education and Innovation
  - Fisheries, Transportation and Rural Development
  - Health, Social Development and Seniors
  - Privileges, Rules and Private Bills
  - Public Accounts

Indices to the daily debates came out as well. The index for the 1st session of the 64th General Assembly (1-9 November 2011) came out in December 2011. The index for the 2nd session (4 April-30 May) was issued in July 2012. The index for the fall sitting of the 3rd session (13 November-7 December 2012) came out in January 2013.

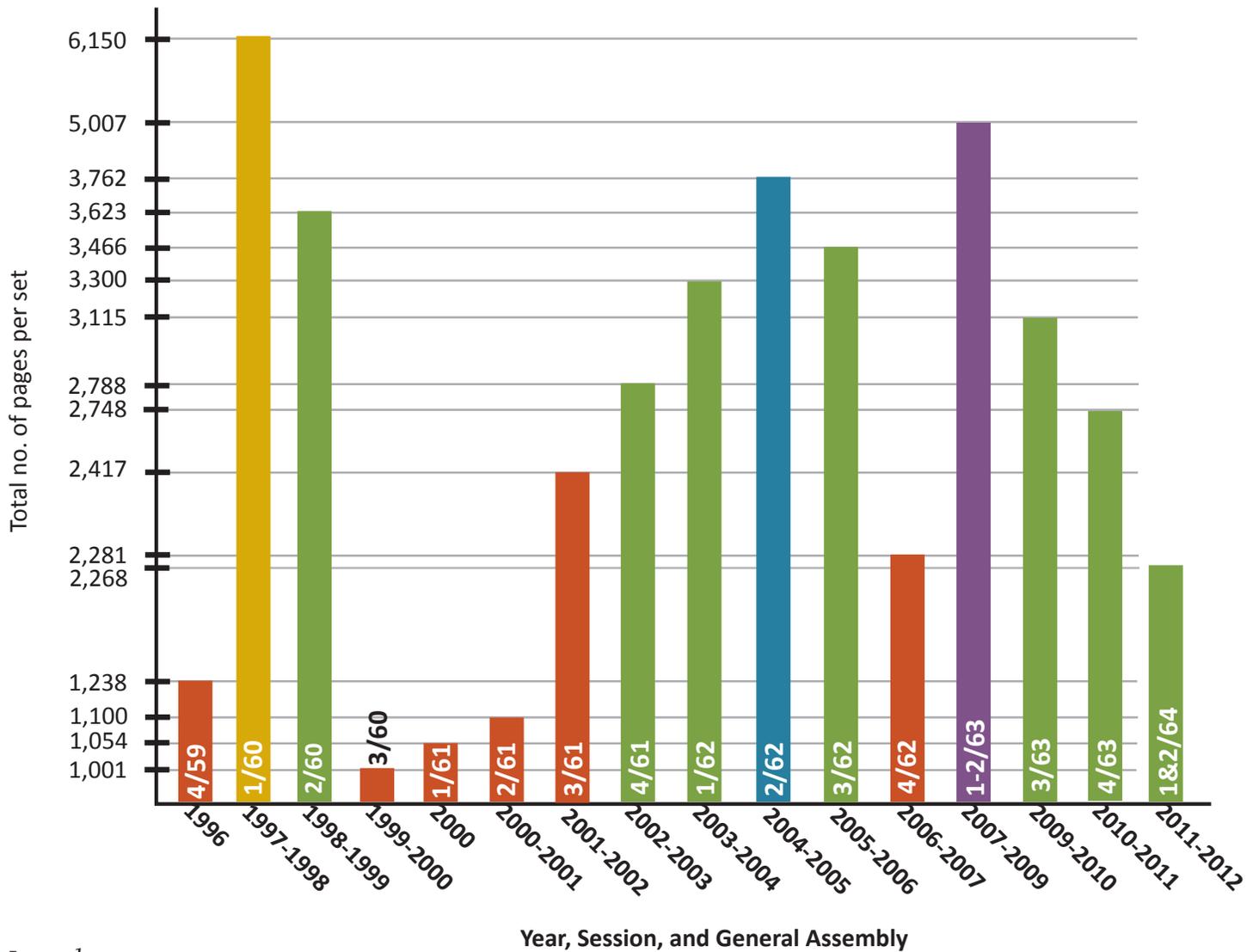
In June the Hansard Manager wrote up the Order of PEI biographies.

In March, Hansard began the long process of editing the transcribed daily debates from the 3rd Session of the 51st General Assembly (22 February-25 April 1968) through to the 4th session of the 52nd General Assembly, which closed in March 1973. The approximately 800 hours of recorded material also include a Model Parliament (1973) and a Centennial Sitting (7 July 1973). This audio has been added to the PEILDO website, accompanied by biographies from the first volume of *Minding the House* of the members present between 1968 and 1973, as well as their photographs. Thanks go to the Association of Former Members of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island for allowing the contents of *Minding the House* to be digitized, and to PARO for supplying the photographs.

The 1st Session of the 64th General Assembly started 1 November 2011 and ended 9 November; the 2nd Session started on 4 April 2012 and adjourned to the call of the Speaker on 30 May. The 3rd Session started on 13 November and adjourned on 7 December 2012.

Since 1996 Hansard has issued a bound edition of the daily debates with index. Volumes are distributed within the Legislative offices, to government and opposition offices, and to national libraries.

## BOUND HANSARD PRODUCTION STATISTICS



- Legend*
- 2 Volumes/Set
  - 3 Volumes/Set
  - 4 Volumes/Set
  - 6 Volumes/Set
  - 13 Volumes/Set

# HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE, & ADMINISTRATION

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This section of the Legislative Assembly reports directly to the Clerk on matters relating to Human Resources, Financial Services and Administration. The Administrative Officer position focuses mainly, but not exclusively, on pay and benefits for employees and Members; budgeting and day-to-day finances of Legislative Services, the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and the Information and Privacy Commission. Information technology, telecommunications and general maintenance requests are also managed by this section. Information technology includes upgrades to existing hardware, replacement computers, printers, and photocopiers as well as software licensing. I am also responsible for maintaining an up-to-date equipment inventory.

An important aspect of the position involves advising employees on benefits and leave interpretation, as well as providing information to both the Government House and Opposition Leaders on staffing budgets. Members' pay and benefits, including mileage allowances, are a function of this position.

The Legislative Assembly uses the Oracle Financial System, Hyperion and PeopleSoft and is a part of the overall government financial and payroll processes. The annual budget exercise commenced in December 2011 for presentation in the spring session. Along with budget preparation, quarterly forecasting is done three times annually to ensure operations stay within the approved budget.

The Legislature participated in the Post-Secondary Student Program and the Jobs for Youth Program, hiring two Legislative Interpreters for an 11-week period from June 6 to August 22, and a 14-week period from June 4 to September 9. The Jobs for Youth position ran for 8 weeks from June 25 to August 31. Payroll documentation and timekeeping are administered through this office, as well as pay and timekeeping for the four Jobs for Youth positions in the Government Members' and Opposition Offices.

This year I was delighted to host the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Parliamentary Administration. The conference was held from September 10 - 14 but planning and organization started much earlier. Considerable time was spent doing site inspections, booking venues, meal and activity planning. I wish to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to Barb O'Donnell, Administrative Assistant, for the valuable role she played in making this conference a success. I simply could not have done it without her! The conference business agenda was prepared by the Executive Committee, of which I am a member. I participated in numerous conference calls to finalize the agenda. Some topics included: "How Are We Advising and Preparing our Legislatures for the Future"; "Social Media Update: What Has Changed?"; "Members Allowances, Benefits and Entitlements: A Northern Perspective"; "Mobile Technologies in a Parliamentary Environment"; and "Managing Fixed Election Dates"; to name a few. Many compliments were received not only about a great conference but the beauty of the Island and the friendliness of the people.

In September, the recruitment process for Legislative Pages commenced by sending a letter

of invitation to all senior high schools in the province. The schools chose their candidate and advised the Legislature by October 12. Orientation was held on October 24 prior to the November 13 House opening.

The Legislative Assembly Employee Development and Training Fund Selection Committee, of which I am a member, met twice this year, approving a total of \$3,249 in staff training and development dollars.

As in past years, I coordinated the annual United Way and Canadian Cancer Society daffodil campaigns for the Legislative Assembly. The canvas includes all Members and staff, as well as staff of Elections PEI and the Information and Privacy Commission. Again, I wish to thank Members and staff for their continuing support of these very worthwhile fundraisers.

On December 3, Joey Jeffrey assumed my responsibilities as Administrative Officer of the Legislative Assembly and, after 36 years of service (21 with the Legislative Assembly), I retired on December 21. My very best wishes to Joey.

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*I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Clerk, Clerk Assistant and all my co-workers for the cooperation and support they have provided not only this year but over the many years we have worked together.*

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# LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY & RESEARCH SERVICE

## Research Librarian

In 2012 the Legislative Assembly's website was completely redesigned and reorganized. The new site was officially launched before the opening of the fall session, and there is still redevelopment going on behind the scenes to improve data capture and streamline storage and access. Work is also being done on a new, stand-alone site for information about the Order of Prince Edward Island, which will launch in 2013. A pilot project that makes all of the documents tabled in the legislature available online has also been incorporated into the website's offerings.

An ongoing project of the Legislative Library, in partnership with Hansard, the Government Services Library, the University of Prince Edward Island, and the Public Archives and Records Office, has been the digitization of older editions of the Clerk's Journal, which is the official record of the Legislative Assembly. The complete record of the modern Legislative Assembly – from 1894, when the bicameral legislature became the unicameral Legislative Assembly – to the present has been scanned and will soon be available online. The Prince Edward Island Legislative Documents Online project will be demonstrated by the project committee for Assembly management, after which a launch date will be set.

The Librarian has been in discussions with Library and Archives Canada (LAC) about the return of provincial publications from LAC to the collection here. As part of cost-cutting measures, LAC has stopped collecting provincial and territorial government publications and, in the process of divesting itself of those collections, has offered to return the documents to their originating jurisdictions. It will be a large project to process the returned items, and to incorporate them into the Legislative Library's collection, but it will add significantly to the depth and scope of the collection.

The annual conference for the Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Canada (APLIC) was held in September in Toronto, ON, and included, for the first time, workshops and information-sharing sessions for parliamentary researchers, to afford them an opportunity to meet and share in professional development. The conference also had a day of workshops and professional development for librarians, and a day of closed meetings for library directors, which always provides valuable peer feedback.

Some upcoming projects for the Librarian include: continuing work on updating the website, creating additional visitors' aides to interpret the interior and grounds of Province House, developing the library's collection, and continuing to support the work of the Standing Committees, MLAs, and house staff.

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## **Research Officer**

In 2012, the Research Officer completed over 40 research briefs at the request of individual MLAs, standing committees, caucus staff, and staff of the legislature. The Research Officer also responded to over 60 information requests from other Canadian jurisdictions through the Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Canada (APLIC) listserv. In turn, the listserv was used to obtain information on legislation, regulations and policies of other jurisdictions for comparison to PEI.

As in previous years, research requests were on a variety of subjects, ranging from retrieval of statistics to more in-depth briefs on legislation and social issues. Subjects were as diverse as the Employment Insurance program, national benefits programs for children and the elderly, and women in corporate leadership roles.

The Research Officer also took on the role of Committee Clerk in 2012, and was responsible for the Standing Committees on Agriculture, Environment, Energy and Forestry; and Fisheries, Transportation and Rural Development. These committees were quite busy throughout the year, with the former examining subjects such as climate change's effects on PEI's forests and environmental concerns in the aquaculture industry, and the latter holding public hearings across PEI on the changes to the Employment Insurance program brought about by the federal government.

The Research Officer again trained and supervised the Assembly's legislative interpreters during their employment at the Assembly from May to September. For the first time, however, a fully guided tour program was put in place to highlight the Assembly's history and its role in a modern democracy. The tour was delivered in both official languages and was very popular among visitors.

In September the Research Officer attended the annual conference of the Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Canada (APLIC) in Toronto, Ontario. Normally a conference for legislative librarians, the 2012 meetings included sessions for legislative researchers to discuss research tools and challenges, share strategies, and hear from panels of MLAs on their research needs and preferences. It was a very valuable conference and it is hoped researchers will continue to meet at least semi-regularly, either as their own association or as an affiliation of APLIC.

## Role

The Sergeant-at-Arms is part of the Office of the Legislative Assembly as defined in the *Legislative Assembly Act*, RSPEI 1988 Cap L-7. The position is steeped in parliamentary tradition; with the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Mace, the House may exercise its considerable rights and privileges, and carry out the various parliamentary functions assigned to it.

Today, the Sergeant-at-Arms is also responsible for the operational security of the Legislative Assembly. The objective is to provide a safe and secure environment for MLAs and Assembly staff to conduct their parliamentary responsibilities in Province House and the Coles Building. As of September 2010, security services for the Legislative Assembly are supplied by the Legislative Assembly Security Force, which consists of three full-time and six part-time members, under the direction of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Additional responsibilities include monitoring and maintenance of electronic surveillance equipment, issuing and controlling of card access system for the Coles Building, training of security personnel, liaising with the Charlottetown Police (as required), creation of contingency plans for bomb threats, fire evacuation plans, contact for assistance with public demonstrations, and other duties.

## Activities

2012 brought with it additional refresher training, in Use of force, Baton Training, Managing the Bomb Threat, and Defibrillator Training, with the assistance of former RCMP officers Brian Weldon and Tony Halverson. This training was carried out in a very professional manner, and was well-received by staff.

At the start of the 2012 Fall Session of the Legislative Assembly, Security Officer Fred Fordham was appointed Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms during Maurice Fitzpatrick's absence from the position due to illness.

After several years of service with the Legislative Assembly as Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, Maurice Fitzpatrick passed away in January 2013. Maurice was the first person to hold the position of Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms at the Legislative Assembly, and his dedication and friendliness will be missed.



Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms  
2007-2013  
*Maurice Fitzpatrick*

In the past year I had the privilege of attending the 28th Annual Sergeant-at-Arms Conference at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in Toronto from August 19 - 24, 2012. Hosted by Denis Clark, Sergeant-at-Arms of Ontario, and Hugh McGreechan, Director of Security, Legislative Security Service, Ontario. In attendance were the Sergeants-at-Arms or Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms from the Canadian provinces, as well as the Sergeants-at-Arms from the Texas Senate, Alabama Senate, and North Carolina Senate, and the Yeoman Usher of the Black Rod from the



Sergeant-at-Arms and  
Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod,  
Warrant Officer  
*J.A. (Al) McDonald, C.D.*

House of Lords in Westminster, London, England.

Topics covered during the conference included:

- Parliamentary Privilege
- Black Rod
- E-Learning Development and Blended Learning
- Strategic and Operational Review
- Ceremonial 2.0 Coding with Social Media
- Leading in 2012
- Building a Continuity of Operations Planning Program
- Jurisdictional Updates



SECURITY OFFICERS, HON. GEORGE COLES BUILDING  
L TO R: Tony Halvorson, Chuck Bachmanek,  
Trevor Darrach

Also, a tour of the Legislative Buildings and the Legislative Grounds was included. A formal dinner was hosted by the Sergeant-at-Arms of Ontario and a reception was hosted by the Honourable David Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

A great deal was learned from the conference and workshop discussions, enabling the Sergeant-at-Arms to return and implement changes to security at the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island, allowing for a safer and more secure workplace.



SECURITY OFFICERS, PROVINCE HOUSE  
L TO R: Brian Weldon, Tony Halvorson, Maurice Fitzpatrick,  
Don LeBlanc, Fred Fordham, Paul Gormley

The Sergeant-at-Arms Conference is held each year in a different location. In 2013 the Conference will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. I am looking forward to future meetings and discussions on how we can make the Prince Edward Island legislature a safer place to work.

# SESSIONAL ADMINISTRATION

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The Sessional Administrative Office supports the records retention aspect required of the Clerk in his duty to maintain accurate records of the House. The Sessional Administrative Office receives and archives a copy of everything tabled in the House during a session, as well as copies of documents tabled intersessionally. While the House is in session, office staff attend sittings and cue House proceedings for the transcribers in the Hansard office.

During sessions, staff produces daily publications such as copies of bills and legislation, the Journal, Orders of the Day, Motions, and Questions and Answers, providing copies of same to the Clerks, Members, and the media.

As part of its role as clearinghouse for Assembly documents, staff also undertakes daily mailings to Opposition Office, Government Members Office, Island New Democrats, Hansard, PEI Law Society, Government Services Library, Legislative Library, Robertson Library at UPEI, and Library of Parliament, Ottawa. In addition to sending out hard copies of documents, staff also maintains the Legislative Assembly website with daily postings of the Journal, Orders of the Day, Motions, Legislation, Questions, Answers, Documents Tabled, Oral Question Period, and Hansard.

The office is also responsible for managing the pages who serve in the House during a session, providing training, support, and scheduling.

When the House is not in session, staff works with the Standing Committees in recording, cueing in speakers, and providing transcripts of meetings.

# INDEMNITIES & ALLOWANCES COMMISSION

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The Indemnities and Allowances Commission is appointed by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (pursuant to Section 46 of the Legislative Assembly Act, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. L-7) and is charged with the responsibility of making binding decisions on remuneration and allowances to be paid to Members of the Legislative Assembly, Premier, Speaker, Ministers of the Crown, various House and Executive Council Committee positions.

Members of the Commission are appointed for the duration of the General Assembly in which they are appointed or for not more than five years.

The Commission conducts an annual review of remuneration and allowances and submits, on or before December 1 each year, a report determining the remuneration and allowances to be paid to the persons referred to in subsection 46(1) of the Legislative Assembly Act.

Members of the Commission as appointed by Hon. Carolyn Bertram, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, for the 64th General Assembly are:

- Ms. Barbara Stevenson, Q.C., Chair
- Mr. Stan MacPherson,  
Commissioner,
- Mr. Ron Profit, Commissioner

The Commission's 2012 report was tabled intersessionally by the Honourable Speaker on February 15, 2013.

# PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND BRANCH OF THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

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## Aims, Goals and Activities of the Association

The CPA is an Association of Commonwealth Parliamentarians who, irrespective of gender, race, religion or culture, are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and by pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy.

Its purpose is to promote knowledge and understanding of the constitutional, legislative, economic, social and cultural systems within a parliamentary democratic framework. It undertakes this mission with particular reference to the countries of the Commonwealth of Nations and to countries having close historical and parliamentary associations with it.

CPA provides the sole means of regular consultation among Members of Commonwealth Parliaments. It fosters cooperation and understanding among them and promotes the study of, and respect for, Parliament.

The CPA pursues these objectives by means of

- Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences, Regional Conferences and other symposiums;
- Interparliamentary visits;
- Parliamentary Seminars and Workshops;
- Publications, notably The Parliamentarian, Canadian Parliamentary Review and two newsletters on CPA activities and on parliamentary and political events;
- Parliamentary Information and Reference Centre communications.

# ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

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The Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie brings together parliamentarians from 77 parliaments and inter-parliamentary organizations from 5 continents. Its actions strive principally to promote and defend democracy, the right to development, the respect of human rights, and international development of the French language and cultural diversity. The APF was created in 1967 and is the consultive body to the head of States of the Sommet de la Francophonie.

Prince Edward Island is one of the members of the America's Regional Assembly of the APF. This assembly unites 13 parliaments across America: Alberta, British Columbia, Canada, Haiti, Louisiana, Maine, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan. The objectives of the Americas Regional Assembly are to highlight French language, as well as defend and promote French culture in Francophone regions in the Americas.

The Provincial Division of the organization is under the direction of Hon. Carolyn Bertram, MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island.